

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5777

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BF

SUBJECT: BAHAMAS GETS A NEW POLITICAL PARTY

1. THE FOUNDING OF A NEW POLITICAL GROUP, THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP), HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. THE PDP IS A COMPOSITE OF DISPARATE ELEMENTS TEMPORARILY UNITED IN POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY AND LOCAL ESTIMATES OF ITS LIFE EXPECTANCY ARE LOW.

2. THE PDP IS AN ATTEMPT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE PEOPLE'S POSITIVE ACTION COMMITTEE (PPAC), AN AD HOC GROUP WHICH CLAIMED A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF CREDIT FOR ORGANIZING THE (IN FACT DISORGANIZED) RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS ON JUMBEY VILLAGE AND THE EMERGENCY POWERS BILL. THE PPAC WAS, AND PDP IS, AN UNEASY COALITION OF SOME ALIENATED FROM CONSERVATIVE AND COMPLACENT FNM LEADERSHIP, SOME ALIENATED FROM TRENDY BUT DORMANT VANGUARG LEADERSHIP, AND SOME WITHIN PLP HOPING TO FOLLOW FAINT STARS OF ED MOXEY AND CARRLTON FRANCIS. PDP'S ANNOUNCED PLAN OF GOALS IS MUDDLED ACCORDINGLY, WITH AFFIRMATIONS OF FREE ENTERPRISE BALANCED BY ASSERTION OF PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO CONTROL NATION'S RESOURCES.

3. PDP CHAIRMAN IS LAWRENCE MCKINEY AND LEADER IS ALFRED BUTLER, BOTH PERSISTENT FLIRTERS WITH WALLACE-WHITFIELD
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WING OF FNM, DUDLEY WILLIAMS' BAHAMAS WORKERS COUNCIL AND VARIOUS

SHORT LIVED YOUTH GROUPS. MOXEY HAS ALREADY PUBLICLY
DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM PDP AND FRANCIS HAS EXPRESSED TO
EMBOFF HIS PRIVATE DISDAIN. PLP LEADERS TAKE LINE THAT
PDP IS INTENDED AS VEHICLE FOR WHITFIELD'S RE-EMERGENCE,
BUT LATTER IS REPORTEDLY RELUCTANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO
WITH NEW GROUP. BIGGEST BOOSTERS OF PDP THUS FAR ARE LOCAL
NEWSPAPERS, EAGER TO FIND PUBLIC MAGNET FOR CRITICISM OF
AND POSSIBLE COMPETITION TO PLP.
SPIERS

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